Neglected monuments in Orissa

77. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various ancient monuments, sculptures and heritage sites are lying neglected in Orissa, as reported in the New Indian Express dated the 4th January, 2003;

(b) whether some of these centres are on the verge of collapse and ASI has failed to preserve the images of Gods and Goddesses at these centres; and

(c) if so, the remedial action proposed to be taken to help the State in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India is and has been protecting, conserving and maintaining all centrally protected monuments and sculptures in Orissa as per established archaeological norms.

Tourism activities in Himachal Pradesh

78. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any increase in tourism activities in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether tourist spots have shown arrival of many tourists from March to December, 2002; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to attract more foreign tourist in the State?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The estimated domestic tourist visits of 12.93 lakhs and foreign tourist visits of 27.01 thousands during January-March 2002 against 11.24 lakhs domestic tourists and 17.60 thousands foreign tourists during corresponding period of 2001

indicate increase in tourism activities in Himachal Pradesh, figures from April to December 2002 are not yet available.

(c) Himachal Pradesh is being promoted in overseas markets through India Tourism Offices abroad.

Renovation and development of tourist spots in Himachal Pradesh

79. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of tourist spots in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the details of these spots which are based on religious background and also on other aspects;

(c) whether any new projects on tourism are under consideration of Government;

(d) if so, the details of the decision regarding new projects and the sanction of funds; if any; and

(e) whether Government have any proposal for renovation and development of existing tourist spots?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Himachal Pradesh has a large number of tourist spots with natural beauty and religious significance. Shimla, Kullu, Manali, Dalhousie and Dharamshala are among the more popular tourist places in the State.

(c) to (e) Development of tourist places is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Department of Tourism provides financial assistance for integrated development of tourism circuits and product/infrastructure and destination development projects identified in consultation with them. A project for integrated development of Chandigarh-Kullu-Manali-Lahaul/Spiti Leh circuit with central financial component of Rs. 6.53 crores for works in Himachal Pradesh has been sanctioned during the current financial year.